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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT Soviet Military Activity in Latvia

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Call-up for Military Service

1. The call-up for military service was usually carried out very quietly all over Latvia, by means of sending the call-up notice to the home of the individual concerned. It was consequently not evident to anybody not directly affected that a call-up of any age group was actually taking place.
2. Written notifications of a call-up either on posters or in the newspapers have not been observed in Latvia, and nothing is known of the use of verbal notifications in any part of the country.

Military Training for Civilians

3. Military training for civilians was on a voluntary basis, and was widely advertised and described in the local press, particularly that of the DOSAAF organization.

Defense Areas in Kurzeme

4. There were no military areas prohibited to civilians, or permanent defense areas in north Kurzeme, or in the eastern half of central Kurzeme. A distinction must, however, be made between such military areas and the restricted coastal zone (which might include permanent defenses). In Kurzeme, the latter is a coastal strip extending approximately 20 km inland, in which local residents required a special permit, and to which non-residents without a special permit was forbidden. These regulations were not strictly observed by the local population living in adjacent districts. The penalty, if caught, is believed not to have been severe.

Soviet Army Morale and Discipline

5. No Soviet Army units appeared to have been stationed in north Kurzeme or in the eastern half of central Kurzeme, except at Tukums, where Soviet Air Force personnel were in evidence.

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6. In other small towns in these areas there were only small units of LEB troops (Blues), consisting of 30 to 50 men. Their discipline was very good, and they appeared to be well trained for combat. From the energy and vigor with which these units fought against the partisans it was evident that their morale must be high.
7. Soviet Army soldiers seen in the streets of Riga appeared to have a high standard of discipline. Military police patrols enforced the observance of strict discipline in the streets, and leave passes were frequently checked. Saluting of officers was well-disciplined and smart.
8. It was evident that members of Soviet Army units stationed outside of Riga received "short time" leave to visit the town, as they were always to be seen coming and going at the railway station and bus terminals.

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